

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a user computer configured to obtain a list of modules from a module-storing region, a module identified in said list of modules being software;

a center computer, the user computer obtaining a list of module-storing regions from said center computer,

wherein said user computer obtains a new module from said module-storing region when said new module is absent from said user computer, said new module being identified in said list of modules,

wherein said module-storing region is one of a plurality of the module-storing regions, location information identifying said module-storing region from said plurality of the module-storing regions,

wherein said location information is recorded within said list of the module-storing regions,

wherein said user computer communicates with said module-storing region and said center computer over a network, said center computer communicating with said module-storing region over said network,

wherein said user computer sends user identification information onto said network, said user identification information identifying said user computer,

wherein said center computer compiles said list of the module-storing regions when said user computer is judged as having a license, said center computer using said user identification information in judging whether said user computer has said license,

wherein said location information corresponds to each of the module-storing regions, said each of the module-storing regions being linked to said user identification information.

14. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said user computer obtains an updated module from said module-storing region when said updated module is a more recent version of a module stored in the user computer, said updated module being identified in said list of modules.

15. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said user computer deletes the name of a skipped module from said list of modules, said name of the skipped module being listed within said user computer.

16. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein one of a plurality of user computers is a master machine, others of said plurality of user computers linking with said master machine.

17. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 16, wherein said user computer is from said plurality of user computers, an IP address of said master machine being stored within said user computer.

18. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said list of modules is updated when another of the modules is stored within said module-storing region, said list of modules being updated within said module-storing region.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, 19, wherein said location information includes a Uniform Resource Locator for each module-storing region in said plurality of module-storing regions.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, 22, wherein said network is selected from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network and the Internet, internet.

24-32. (Canceled)

33. (New) An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a center computer through a network, comprising:

a communication unit configured:

to send a user identification information for identifying a user of the information processing apparatus to the center computer;

to receive from the center computer a first list of a plurality of location information indicating locations of a plurality of storing regions and corresponding to the user identification information sent to the center computer, the plurality of storing regions being provided on the network to correspond to a plurality of user identification information of each of a plurality of users and storing update software for a plurality of software provided by a plurality of software vendors to the plurality of users; and

to receive a plurality of second lists of the plurality of update software by accessing to the plurality of storing regions according to the first list; and

a controller configured:

to determine whether there is any update software to be received by comparing the plurality of second lists and the software currently being installed in the information processing apparatus; and

to generate, when determined that there are some update software to be received, a third list of the update software to be received,

the communication unit being configured to receive the update software listed in the third list by accessing to each of the plurality of storing regions storing the update software listed in the third list according to the received first list.

34. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the plurality of update software are a plurality of modules for updating software currently being installed in a plurality of the information processing apparatuses of the plurality of users that are made to correspond to the plurality of storing regions; and

the controller is configured:

to compare a plurality of lists of modules received as the plurality of second lists from the plurality of storing regions and the plurality of modules that are currently being installed in the information processing apparatus and to generate, as the third list, a list of newer versions of the plurality of modules than the plurality of modules currently being installed in the information processing apparatus out of the plurality of second lists of modules; and

to present the generated third list to the user and to input a command to receive the newer version of the plurality of modules; and

the communication unit is configured to receive the newer version of the plurality of modules when the command to receive the newer version thereof is inputted.

35. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein:

the communication unit is configured to access to the plurality of storing regions and to receive the second list of modules again by accessing to the plurality of storing regions according to the received first list when the command to receive the plurality of modules is inputted;

the controller is configured to re-generate the third list of the newer version of modules according to the plurality of second lists received again; and

the communication unit is configured to receive the newer version of the plurality of modules according to the re-generated third list of modules.

36. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein:

the communication unit is configured to access to the plurality of storing regions and to receive the second lists of modules again by accessing to the plurality of storing regions according to the received first list when the command to receive the plurality of modules is inputted;

the controller is configured to re-generate the third list of the plurality of modules currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus according to the plurality of second lists received again; and

the communication unit is configured to receive the modules currently not being installed according to the re-generated third list of modules.

37. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the plurality of update software are a plurality of modules that are currently not being installed and to be added in the information processing apparatus of the plurality of users and that are made to correspond to the plurality of storing regions;

the controller is configured:

to compare a plurality of lists of modules received as the plurality of second lists from the plurality of storing regions and the plurality of modules that are currently being installed in the information processing apparatus, and

to generate, as the third list, a list of modules that are currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus; and

to present the generated third list to the user and to input a command to receive the plurality of modules currently not being installed; and

the communication unit is configured to receive the plurality of modules currently not being installed in the information processing apparatus when the command to receive the plurality of modules currently not being installed is inputted.

38. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 33, further comprising:

a data storage configured to previously store a name of the software that is being excluded from the judgment of judging whether there are any update software to be received;

wherein the controller is configured to restrict updating software according to the stored names of the software.

39. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the information processing apparatus is capable of communicating with a link machine as a master machine through the network; and

the controller is configured to have the link machine compare the second lists of modules of the plurality of update software received from the plurality of storing regions and the plurality of modules that is currently being installed in the information processing apparatus and determine whether there are any update software to be received, generates the third list when there are some update software determined to be received, access to storing region for each of the software listed in

the third list according to each of the received first list and receive the necessary update software from the plurality of storing regions.

40. (New) A software updating system comprising:

a center computer; and

an information processing apparatus capable of communicating through a network, the center computer including:

a data storage configured to store a plurality of location information of a plurality of storing regions and a plurality of user identification information of each of a plurality of users, the plurality of storing regions being provided on the network to store a plurality of update software for a plurality of software provided to the plurality of users by a plurality of software vendors, and each of the plurality of user identification information corresponding to each of the plurality of storing regions;

a first communication unit configured:

to send previously the plurality of update software to the plurality of storing regions; and

to receive the user identification information from the information processing apparatus; and

a first controller configured to generate a first list of the plurality of location information corresponding to the received user identification information,

the first communication unit being configured to send the generated first list when the user identification information is received,

the information processing apparatus including:

a second communication unit configured:

to send the user identification information to the center computer; to receive the first list; and

to receive a plurality of second lists of the plurality of update software by accessing to the plurality of storing regions according to the first list; and

a second controller configured:

to determine whether there is any update software to be received by comparing the plurality of the second list and the software currently being installed in the information processing apparatus; and

to generate, when determined that there are some update software to be received, a third list of the update software to be received,

the second communication unit being configured to receive the update software listed in the third list by accessing to each of the plurality of storing regions storing the update software listed in the third list according to the received first list.

41. (New) A method of updating a software installed in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a center computer through a network, comprising:

sending a user identification information for identifying a user of the information processing apparatus to the center computer;

receiving from the center computer a first list of a plurality of location information indicating locations of a plurality of storing regions, the plurality of storing regions corresponding to the user identification information sent to the center computer, the plurality of storing regions being

provided on the network to correspond to a plurality of user identification information of each of a plurality of users, and storing update software for a plurality of software provided by a plurality of software vendors to the plurality of users;

accessing to the plurality of storing regions according to the received first list and receiving a plurality of second lists of update software from the plurality of storing regions;

determining whether there are any update software to be received by comparing the plurality of second lists and the software currently being installed in the information processing apparatus;

generating, when determined that there are some update software to be received, a third list of the update software to be received; and

receiving the update software listed in the third list by accessing to each of the plurality of storing regions storing the update software listed in the third list according to the received first list.

42. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein a program for carrying out a method according to claim 41.